

News releases - Ian Hunter

New wind farm generates further energy for the State

Ian Hunter

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Climate Change Minister Ian Hunter and ACT Deputy Chief Minister Simon Corbell today officially opened the first stage of Neoen Australia's Hornsdale Wind Farm near Jamestown, which began generating energy into the grid last week.

At maximum capacity, stage one of the farm is expected to generate 100 MW, which could power up to 70,000 homes.

Stage 1 of Hornsdale wind farm was last year awarded a feed-in tariff for 100MW of generation under the ACT Government's innovative reverse auction scheme. The ACT Government also awarded stage 2 of the Hornsdale project a feed-in tariff for an additional 100MW at a then-record low price of \$77 per megawatt hour.

The site, which stretches along 20 kilometres, has been developed by leading French renewable energy company Neoen, in partnership with Megawatt Capital Investments and infrastructure investor John Laing, after Neoen successfully bid for the ACT Government's 20-year wind farm contract.

The State Government has supported the project throughout, including via Investment Attraction South Australia, as well as hosting Neoen in 2012 as a potential investor and putting in place regulatory frameworks to attract renewable projects.

The deal strengthens South Australia's position as Australia's leading renewable energy state.

Background

South Australia is the largest producer of wind energy in Australia, and Hornsdale is an optimal wind farm site due to its access to strong wind, links to a high capacity power network that links Adelaide with the industrial north, and its relative distance from populated areas.

This is the first wind farm to be energised in South Australia since Snowtown Stage 2 roughly three years ago, also built by global technology company Siemens.

The Hornsdale project has been funded through the ACT Government's innovative reverse auction process, which has been used to power the ACT Government's commitment to 100% renewable energy by 2020. Through the reverse auction scheme,

the ACT Government has awarded feed-in tariffs to eight wind and solar projects in the ACT, South Australia and Victoria.

The Energisation ceremony marks Stage 1 of the project, with Stage 2 of the project well into construction and expected to generate another 100 MW of power before the end of 2016.

Neoen plans to build more than 600MW of renewable energy projects in Australia by 2020, and will invest \$40,000 a year for community projects for each stage of the project through their Community Fund. For more information visit www.hornsdailewindfarm.com.au

Quotes attributable to Climate Change Minister Ian Hunter

As a government, we are delighted to see this project reach the energisation stage.

About 41 per cent of South Australia's electricity is generated from renewable sources.

By introducing a wind farm policy some 13 years ago, we have been able to establish ourselves as nation leaders in renewable energy.

As we look to continue our move to a low carbon economy, we need to unlock the full potential of our state's renewable assets and this new wind farm is an important next step in ensuring sustainable energy supply for the State's future.

Since 2003, South Australia has seen \$6.6 billion in renewable energy investment, with 40 per cent of this occurring in regional areas – the Hornsdale project contributes to reaching our target of \$10 billion in low carbon generation by 2025 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Hornsdaile is a unique example of what can be achieved with like-minded partnerships. We're bringing together the best of technology from Siemens who are building and operating the wind farm, international investment from Neoen the owner of this important project, the ACT government who are seeking the best value renewable offsets and South Australia who are Australia's leading renewable destination.

Quotes attributable to ACT Deputy-Chief Minister Simon Corbell

Hornsdaile wind farm will be a major component of the electricity generation needed to reach the territory's target of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020.

When complete the wind farm will provide around 27 per cent of the ACT's forecast 2020 electricity supply.

Each of the ACT's supported wind farms will be managed from Canberra which means that, as companies such as Neoen grow, so too will ACT jobs.

The ACT will benefit from a number of local investments from the developers of the Hornsdale wind farm, including a new Renewable Energy Skills Centre of Excellence at Canberra's Institute of Technology and new company headquarters for the developer, Neoen.

The ACT's innovative reverse auction process has now been adapted by the Victorian and Queensland Governments as well as by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

Quotes attributable to Franck Woitiez, Managing Director of Neoen Australia

Neoen, as a developer, investor and asset owner, has the recipe to bring together high quality, complex and innovative projects.

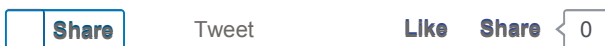
South Australia is home to our largest wind farm in the world, and such a welcoming place to do business.

Neoen has an ambitious development target for Australia and the quality of our relationship with local communities, and government agencies allows us to continue investing in the state.

Quote attributable to David Pryke, Head of Siemens Energy Businesses in Australia & NZ

This project is the epitome of partnership combined with the best technology to bring ingenuity to life for the benefit of society. We have a long and proud history of over 144 years in South Australia and it's a great place to do business. A complex project like Hornsdale can only be achieved through willing and capable like-minded partners. The outcome is that it's good for the environment, good for the economy and good for the community – all critical ingredients for sustainable success.

Note: Last year Siemens announced its aim to be the world's first major industrial company to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by 2030.



- [Minister for Climate Change](#)